IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please replace the drawing sheet containing Figure 4a with the attached replacement sheet.

<u>REMARKS</u>

This Amendment and Response is believed to be responsive to the Final Office Action

mailed on October 19, 2005. In that action, a drawing, namely Figure 4a, was objected to

because steps 409 and 408 were reversed and, therefore, incorrectly labeled; claims 1-25 were

objected to because of informalities; claims 10 and 34 were rejected as being indefinite under 35

U.S.C. 112, second paragraph; claims 1-3, 5-11, 25-27 and 29-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C.

103(a) as being unpatentable over Coward (USPN 6,633,899) in view of Tummala et al (USPN

6,915,345); claims 4, 12-16, 19-24, 28, 36-40 and 43-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as

being unpatentable over Coward in view of Tummala, further in view of Lerner (US Patent App.

Pub. 2002/0010776); claims 17, 18, 41 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Coward in view of Tummala, further in view of Pandya et al (USPN

6,671,724).

As suggested to overcome the objection to Figure 4a, a replacement sheet with the

correct labeling is included. As suggested to overcome the informality objection, claim 25 has

been amended to include the appropriate punctuation. Applicant respectfully submits that the

informality objection to claim 1 was not correct. A "relaying and screening means" would not fit

syntactically with the proceeding clause, "the at least one message broker is configured to

provide message processing ... wherein message processing includes at least one of:" Therefore,

the "relaying and screening" language has been left unchanged. The objections to informalities

in claims 2-24 are also, therefore, addressed as they rested on the objection to the informalities in

claim 1.

Claim 10 has been amended as suggested, removing indefiniteness and including tangible elements. Claim 34 has been amended as suggested, removing indefiniteness and aligning the form with that of a method claim.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the element of an integrated service controller (ISC) and to limit further the claim to implementation of the message broker within the service control layer. Claims 2, 15, and 16 have been amended to be consistent with claim 1 as amended. Claims 12-14 and 17-19 have been canceled and claims 20 and 22-24 have been amended to depend on claim 1 directly because claim 19 has been canceled.

Claim 25 has been amended to include the step of configuring an integrated service controller (ISC) and to limit further the configuring of the message broker to "in a service control layer." Claims 26, 39, and 40 have been amended to be consistent with claim 25 as amended. Claims 36-38 and 41-43 have been canceled and claims 44 and 46-48 have been amended to depend on claim 25 directly because claims 39 and 43 have been canceled.

Applicant has also added independent claim 49 and dependent claims 50-53. Applicant submits that these claims, as presented, are in allowable form over the prior art of record, because the prior art does not show a service control message broker configured in a service control layer in communication with an integrated service controller.

Applicant respectfully submits the above changes to Figure 4a and to the claims address and overcome the objections in the office action. In addition, Applicant submits that all claims as amended are in allowable form. Reconsideration of the rejections is hereby requested.

Tummala teaches a message broker that may provide "indirect access to other SLAs through the reciprocal agreements with other SLAs maintained by the Broker AAA Server" (Column 10, Lines 8-11). "The AAA servers 204, 220, 245 and 265 can assist in the

management of SAs and support the uniform transfer of encrypted information packets using a well-defined security protocol" (Column 9, Lines 19-22). "The Broker AAA Server essentially becomes a consortium of SLAs from various networks" in a "common support platform for multiple SLAs" (Column 10, Lines 3-6). Tummala fails to teach, however, an integrated service controller configured to classify, register, integrate, operate, and prioritize a new service. In fact, Tummala teaches away from complexity, specifically inter-network complexity, stating, "establishing multiple SLAs among multiple service providers and networks increases the management complexity of the system. In order to reduce this management complexity and allow large-scale roaming among different networks, Broker AAA Servers can be established to provide a common support platform for multiple SLAs" (Column 9, Line 66 – Column 10, Line 4). Therefore, Tummala does not teach the integrated service controller of claim 1, configured to classify, register, integrate, operate, and prioritize a new service. Furthermore, Tummala also fails to disclose a message broker configured to operate in a service control layer.

Coward fails to disclose an integrated service controller configured to classify, register, integrate, operate, and prioritize a new service. Futhermore, Coward fails to disclose either a message broker configured to operate in a service control layer or a message broker connectable to a plurality of communication network system entities of a plurality of communications networks. Therefore, even a combination of the teachings of Tummala and Coward fails to teach the elements of claim 1.

Applicant submits that for the above reasons, claim 1 as amended is in allowable form. Applicant also submits that claims 2-24 are in allowable form because of the additional limitations therein, and because they depend upon claim 1.

Regarding claim 25, Applicant submits that both Tummala and Coward fail to disclose, among other things, a method of configuring a message broker in a service control layer, much less configuring an integrated service controller (ISC) to classify, register, integrate, operate, and prioritize a new service. Thus, Applic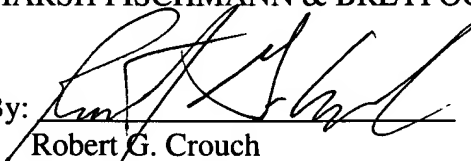ant submits that claim 25 as amended is in allowable form. In support of this, Applicant references and resubmits for claim 25 the arguments above regarding the distinctions in claim 1 from the disclosures of both Tummala and Coward. Further, Applicant submits that claims 26-48 are in allowable form because of the additional limitations therein, and because they depend on claim 25.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

MARSH FISCHMANN & BREYFOGLE LLP

By: _____

Robert G. Crouch
Registration No. 34,806
3151 South Vaughn Way, Suite 411
Aurora, Colorado 80014
(720) 562-5506

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